



SOUTHEAST FISHERIES BULLETIN

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steve Branstetter, or Steve.Branstetter@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583

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KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT INCREASED TO 75 FISH PER DAY FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE

The daily vessel trip limit is increased to 75 fish beginning 12:01 a.m., February 1, 2005, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in federal waters of the Florida east coast subzone.

From November 1 through March 31, the Florida east coast subzone for Gulf group king mackerel is the area north of 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary), and south of 29° 25' N. lat. (a line directly east of from the Volusia/Flagler County, Florida, boundary).

The trip limit in federal waters is increased from 50 to 75 king mackerel per day after the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) determines that less than 75 percent (or 478,469 pounds) of the 1,040,625-pound quota would be harvested for this fishery segment before February 1, 2005.

The 75-fish daily trip limit will remain in effect until March 31, 2005, unless the subzone's quota is reached and the fishery is closed prior to that date. If the 1,040,625-pound quota is harvested during February or March 2005, the subzone will be closed and the daily trip limit reduced to zero king mackerel until the 2004/2005 season ends on March 31, 2005.

Such a closure would be effective upon filing the notification with the Office of the Federal Register.

There is no provision under the Florida Administrative Code authorizing the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to similarly increase the trip limit in state waters. Therefore, the daily trip limit for king mackerel harvested in state waters off the east coast of Florida will remain at 50 fish.

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to customers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.